

Draft  
Environmental Assessment

Land Acquisition for Region 6  
Headquarters (Glasgow)

April 2019



Region 6  
1 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230

## Draft

### Environmental Assessment CHECKLIST

#### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of proposed state action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to purchase an estimated 0.73-acre lot adjacent to its existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow. The purpose of this property is to secure space for a visitor parking lot that can accommodate vehicles pulling trailers. Purchasing this property would also provide space for FWP to improve the existing Headquarters building on the lot it sits on.
2. **Agency authority for the proposed action:** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3. **Anticipated Schedule:** Purchase lot in Summer 2019  
Estimated Construction Commencement Date: NA  
Estimated Completion Date: NA  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): NA
5. **Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township – included map):**  
The Region 6 Headquarters building and compound is located within city limits on the northwest end of Glasgow and is accessed off of U.S. Highway 2. The proposed land acquisition lies immediately northwest of the existing Headquarters property along Highway 2 (Figure 1). This 0.73-acre property is Lot 2, Carney's 1<sup>st</sup> Addition to Glasgow, Valley County.
6. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/	<u>0.73</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	<u>0</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
Areas		Other	<u>0</u>



figure 1. Map showing proposed Headquarters lot purchase.

8. **Permits, Funding & Overlapping Jurisdiction.**

- (a) **Permits:** Not Applicable for land purchase. Any future improvements on this proposed land would be required to meet all local, state and federal regulations and to obtain any necessary permits.

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Permits \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) **Funding:**

Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks \_\_\_\_\_ Funding Amount: \$85,000 \_\_\_\_\_

- (c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:** None

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Responsible \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Narrative summary of the proposed action:** The purpose of this action is to secure space for building a pull through parking lot for visitor parking to accommodate vehicles towing boats, trailers or campers and would provide FWP staff a safe place to conduct boat inspections for aquatic invasive species. Currently there is no parking area at the Headquarters that allows for vehicles pulling a trailer to pull through without backing up. Since many of our customers are pulling boats, trailers or campers, this requires them to either back their trailer out of our small visitor parking lot, park on the shoulder of Highway 2 in front of the office or park across the street in a gas station parking lot, each of which can be a safety hazard.

Furthermore, state law now requires all out of state boats to be inspected for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) by FWP staff prior to being launched. A pull through parking lot would provide a safe and convenient spot for visitors needing to have their boat inspected. Expanding the parking lot into this area would also open up more space on the existing Headquarters lot to construct a better functioning shop area, a conference room suitable for public meetings and improve office space.

10. **Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives:**

**Alternative A: No Action**

Under this alternative the lot adjacent to the FWP Region 6 Headquarters would not be purchased. There would be no space to construct a larger visitor parking lot to accommodate vehicles pulling a trailer. Visitors pulling a trailer would continue to park in areas where they create a potential safety hazard. Future

options to construct a larger shop facility, a conference room for public meetings and improved office space would be very limited.

### **Alternative B: Proposed Action**

This alternative allows for FWP to purchase the 0.73-acre lot immediately adjacent to the existing Region 6 Headquarters building, which would fulfill the need for additional visitor parking and accommodate customers pulling a boat, camper or trailer. Purchasing this lot provides space for construction of a pull through visitors parking lot and would allow for a safe and convenient spot to conduct mandatory boat inspections for aquatic invasive species. Expanding visitor parking into this lot would also allow room on the existing Headquarters lot to construct a better functioning shop, a conference room for public meetings and improve office space.

11. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency: NA

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST**

Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.

### **A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture			X			
2. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
3. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
4. Existing water right or reservation				X		
5. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			A (5)
6. Unique, endangered, or fragile vegetative species				X		
6. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats			X			
7. Unique, endangered, or fragile wildlife or fisheries				X		

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
species						
8. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
9. Changes to abundance or movement of species				X		

A (5) If purchased the existing vacant lot would be converted to a parking area resulting in the removal of most of the current vegetation in the new parking area.

## B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Provided
1. Noise and/or electrical effects				X		
2. Land use			X			B (2)
3. Risk and/or health hazards				X		
4. Community impact			X beneficial			B (4)
5. Public services/taxes/utilities				X		
6. Potential revenue and/or project maintenance costs				X		
7. Aesthetics and recreation			X beneficial			B (4)
8. Cultural and historic resources				X		
9. Evaluation of significance				X		
10. Generate public controversy				X		

B (2) Land use would change from a vacant lot to a parking area.

B (4) FWP would be better able to provide needed services to the public through this proposed project.

## PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The proposed action to acquire a 0.73-acre lot for the FWP Regional Headquarters in Glasgow should have no negative cumulative effect. However, this action does pose a positive cumulative effect by allowing for the opportunity to construct a larger parking area for visitors and would allow for visitors pulling a boat, camper or trailer to easily and safely park when stopping at the office and

be able to pull through and exit without backing up. This action would also free up space on the existing Headquarters lot to construct a functional shop area, a public meeting room and improve office space. All of which would allow FWP staff to provide additional and efficient services to the public.

The “No Action Alternative” would not provide FWP with the necessary space needed to construct a larger visitor parking area to accommodate vehicles pulling a trailer. Visitors pulling a trailer would still need to either pull off on the edge of Highway 2, park across the street in the gas station parking lot or create a potential traffic hazard by attempting to back out of our small visitor parking area. Future opportunity to expand the Headquarters shop, construct a public meeting room and improve office space would also be limited.

#### **PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

##### **1. Public involvement:**

The public will be notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in each of these papers: Glasgow Courier and the Helena Independent Record.
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Copies of this environmental assessment will be distributed to the neighboring landowners and interested parties to ensure their knowledge of the proposed project.

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having limited impacts, many of which can be mitigated.

##### **2. Duration of comment period:**

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the first legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., May 24, 2019 and can be mailed to the address below:

#### **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

##### **1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.**

No. Impacts to the physical environment are very small in scale due to the small size of the lot (0.73 acres) and the fact that it is located within the city limits of Glasgow and situated between two existing office buildings. Impacts to the human environment are positive in nature as the public will benefit from improved parking and increased safety for visitors pulling a trailer.

**2. Person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Mark Sullivan, Regional Supervisor, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1 Airport Road,  
Glasgow, MT 59230, 406-228-3700

**3. List of agencies or offices consulted during preparation of the EA:** FWP Helena  
Headquarters.